In order to ensure remunerative prices to growers for their produce, including farmers of Gujarat, Government of India is pursuing a positive price policy. Under this, the Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major agricultural commodities and organises Price Support Operations through Public and Cooperative Agencies. The MSP for major crops during the last five years is given in the enclosed annexure *(see Appendix 179, Annexure No. 54).*

Under the Plan Scheme of "Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers' a 30% subsidy subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000 is paid for purchase of tractors and matching implements. Funds to the tune of Rs. 30.90 lakh, Rs. 60.80 lakh, Rs. 41.40 lakh and Rs. 76.20 lakh have been released to Gujarat during the years 1992-93, 1993-94, 1995-96 and 1996-97 for subsidising 103,206, 138 and 254 tractor-sets respectively.

Subsidised fertilisers including Urea are being allocated to various States at the beginning of every season. Urea to the extent of 7.13 lakh tonnes, 8.03 lakh tonnes, 8.07 lakh tonnes, 9.05 lakh tonnes and 11.50 lakh tonnes was supplied to Gujarat during 1991-92,1992-93,1993-94,1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

The Production of foodgrains in Gujarat during 1991-92 to 1995-96 is given below:

Year	Production (Million Tonnes)
1991-92	3.39
1992-93	5.41
1993-94	3.78
1994-95	5.25
1995-96	4.10

Bombay Urban Transport Project-II

2357. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether project preparation in respect of Bombay Urban Transport Project-II (BUTP-II) has since been completed, if not, present status thereof;

(b) the total estimated cost and workwise details; and

(c) how much World Bank loan is expected for it?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) to (c) At present four studies for rail components of BUTP-II, viz, (1) Financial and Institutional Study of combined Suburban Rail Operation (2) System Planning Study and Development of Simulation Model (3) Study to determine specification of Remanufacture of EMU rolling stock (4) Study for conversion of existing DC traction to AC traction are underway. The project components and size of the project will be decided only after the preparatory studies are over. It will take about 6 months for the three main studies S. Nos. (1) to (3)'to be completed. The fourth study, i.e., item (4)"may take about one year to complete. The estimated cost of the studies funded by World Bank is as under:

1. US $0.95 million
2. US $ 0.90 million
3. US $ 0.55 million
4. US $ 0.60 million

Transfer and Promotion Policy in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

2358. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan had in 1982-83, undertaken in a court of law that promotion will precede transfers and recruitments every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this commitment has been in vogue since then and forms part of transfer guidelines operative part; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not adhering to the norm in case of promotion of Group 'D' employees to the post of LDCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has informed that as per the Board of Governors' decision, promotion is to precede transfer and recruitment in respect of teachers. No guidelines regarding the sequence for posting of non-teaching staff including the post of LDCs have been laid down. Information

regarding the undertaking mentioned in part (a) of the question is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Encouragement to Cultivation of Oilpalm

2359. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging the cultivation of oil-palm in the country;

(b) if so, the measures taken for assistance to States for oil-palm cultivation;

(c) the State-wise production of oil-palm during the last three years; and

(d) the details of extent of land under oil-palm cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) In order to encourage cultivation of oil Palm, Government in providing assistance to selected States under Central sponsored scheme namely, Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) for planting material, cultivation during gestation period, drip irrigation installation, training of extension staff and farmers, publicity & extension and establishement & staff.

(c) and (d) The State-wise production of Oil Palm Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) during last three years and extent of area under Oil Palm are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise Production of Oil Palm Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) during last Three years.

S.No. State	Oil Palm FFB Production (Metric tonnes)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. Kerala	14,050	19,910	19,901
2. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	9,349	10,868	9,088
3. Andhra Pradesh	983	3,854	6,966
4. Karnataka	237	1,197	1,800
5. Goa	NIL	NIL	28 (P)
	24,619	35,829	37.783 (P)

P—Provisional.

State-wise extent of area under Oil Palm

S.No. State	Area under Oil Palm (Hectares)
1. Kerala	3,646
2. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1,593
3. Andhra Pradesh	17,577
4. kamataka	6,700
5. Tamil Nadu	5,033
6. Goa	570
7. Gujarat	300
8. Orissa	380
9. Tripura	72
10. Assam	10
11. Maharashtra	1,000
TOTAL	36,881

Creation of Sports Funds

2360. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering possibilities to create separate sports funds to encourage sports;

(b) if so, the total amount spent on sports by Government during the last three years;

(c) whether the funds allocated to the State Governments for sports have been utilised and whether Government have asked for a report thereon; and

(d) if so, the other concrete steps Government propose to take to encourage sports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS) IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN); (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to create a National Sports Development Fund.

(b)The total expenditure incurred on sports by the Government of India during last three years is as under.—

Year	Total Expenditure Incurred
1993-94	Rs. 81.11 crores
1994-95	Rs. 71.22 crores
1995-96	Rs. 64.13 crores